

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1625

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (ANDERSON, JOHN) CH US PFOR

SUBJECT: CODEL ANDERSON DISCUSSIONS WITH TENG HSIAO-PING

REF: PEKING 1623

IN ADDITION TO TOPICS COVERED REFTTEL, PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING WAS ASKED ABOUT THE STATE OF SINO-US RELATIONS AND ENCOURAGED TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN MIA'S WITH THE VIETNAMESE. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT TENG (AS WITH CODEL PERCY) SAID RELATIONS WITH THE US WERE NORMAL TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE TAIWAN ISSUE IS OUTSTANDING. BUT THIS TIME HE ALSO RAISED THE CANCELLATION OF THE US TOUR OF THE PRC PERFORMING ARTS TROUPE. HE OFFERED MILD CRITICISM OF THE US ACTION BUT THEN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH BUSH'S ANSWER THAT HE (BUSH) WISHED THE PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED BY COMPROMISE AS IT HAD WITH THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA REGARDING THE MIA'S IN INDOCHINA, TENG TOLD THE GROUP TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH THE VIETNAMESE AND SAID THE PRC WOULD NOT RAISE IT WITH THEM. EXCHANGES ON THESE TWO ITEMS FOLLOW:

SINO-US RELATIONS.

SENATOR BYRD: "ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH EFFORTS TOWARD GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES? DO YOU TRUST US? I DO NOT TRUST THE USSR, BUT I RESPECT AND ADMIRE THE CHINESE. DO YOU RECIPROCATE?"

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TENG: WE GIVE HIGH REGARD TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S COURAGEOUS DECISION AND HOPE THIS WILL BE CONTINUED AND DEVELOPED. WE HAVE COMMON GROUND AND THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE HAS STATED THAT COMMON GROUND. NOW THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN REMAINS OUTSTANDING, SO RELATIONS ARE NOT NORMALIZED. TAKING THIS (TAIWAN) INTO ACCOUNT, RELATIONS ARE NORMAL, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME SMALL INCIDENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CANCELLATION OF OUR TROUPE'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF A SONG. I THINK THIS IS A MINOR INCIDENT, BUT I THINK THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE DONE OTHERWISE. DOES MR. BUSH AGREE?

MR. BUSH: "I WISH THE PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN SOLVED OTHERWISE BY A COMPROMISE, LIKE THAT IN THE CASE OF THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA."

TENG: "I AM SATISFIED WITH YOUR REPLY."

SENATOR PEARSON: "I HAVE A STATEMENT TO MAKE. THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE CONGRESS AND WHILE I CANNOT SPEAK FOR EVERYONE, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT A GREAT MAJORITY IN THE CONGRESS ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE KOREAN PROBLEM."

TENG: "THAT IS FINE."

PEARSON: "WE UNDERSTAND YOUR EMPHASIS ON SUPPORTING REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS. WE ALSO SUPPORT GROUPS WHICH ARE FRIENDLY TO OUR WAY OF SEEING THINGS. CAN WE SEE THE DAY WHERE THERE IS FREE AND OPEN CONFRONTATION FOR THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN THROUGH SUBVERSION?"

TENG: "WE DON'T BELIEVE ANY COUNTRY IS REALLY OPEN. THE SONG I JUST MENTIONED SHOWS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT REALLY OPEN TO THAT SONG." END QUOTE.

AMERICAN MIA'S IN VIETNAM.

SENATOR NUNN: "THE UNITED STATES MADE MANY MISTAKES IN
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INDOCHINA, BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY AMERICAN FAMILITES WHO LOST SONS THERE. IS THERE ANYTHING YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO TO PERSUADE VIETNAM TO HELP US FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?"

TENG: "YOU WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH VIETNAM. IF THERE WERE SUCH PEOPLE IN CHINA, WE WOULD NOT HOLD THEM. SINCE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WE HAVE ALWAYS

RELEASED PRISONERS. WE SENT THE REMAINING JAPANESE BACK TO JAPAN AND EVEN RELEASED SOME KUOMINTANG PRISONERS TO TAIWAN.

NUNN: "I WAS NOT UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WERE ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS IN CHINA. BUT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE THAT THE PRC COULD GIVE IN PASSING THIS MESSAGE ON TO NORTH VIETNAM."

TENG: "WE HAVE ONE BASIC PRINCIPLE. WE DON'T EVEN MAKE SUGGESTIONS TO OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. WHERE WE CAN HELP WE WILL. BUT OUR EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE SUGGESTION MAY NOT ACCORD WITH CONDITIONS IN THAT COUNTRY. IT WOULD BE IMPOSING OUR OWN IDEAS AND THAT IS NOT GOOD. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN THE PRINCIPLE THAT POLICIES AND POLICY GUIDELINES CAN BE FORMULATED ONLY BY THE PEOPLE OF A COUNTRY, OTHERWISE THEY WILL FAIL. IF THE POLICIES THEY MAKE ARE NOT PROPER, THEY CAN LEARN FROM THEIR MISTAKES. THIS IS A GOOD WAY. IF ONE ACTS ON OTHERS' ORDERS, ONE WILL SUFFER. WE HAVE LEARNED THIS FROM A CENTURY OF EXPERIENCE." END QUOTE.

BUSH

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